

CHAPTER NO. 679**SENATE BILL NO. 2205****By Miller, Burks, Trail, Dixon, Southerland, Ketron, Cooper****Substituted for: House Bill No. 2224****By Newton, Hood, Coleman**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to grading systems in schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-302(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() The general assembly finds that, given the fact that the state provides substantial financial academic assistance to students of the state based on cumulative grade point averages and the fact that LEAs currently use a variety of grading scales, it is in the best interest of the students of the public schools that a uniform grading system be developed and adopted by the state board of education to be implemented in all public schools of the state. Therefore, the state board of education is directed to establish a task force comprised of superintendents, principals, teachers, and representatives of school boards and higher education no later than June 30, 2004. The task force shall make recommendations to the board including, but not limited to, the following: consistent numerical breaks for letter grades; consideration of standards to define an honors course; appropriate weighting of courses; and determination of courses and weightings to be used in the calculation of class rank. The task force shall report its findings to the state board of education no later than December 31, 2004. The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of this section. The comptroller's office of education accountability is directed to evaluate the uniform grading system four (4) years after its implementation and to report its findings to the education oversight committee of the general assembly. Such evaluation shall include an analysis of the relationship of grade point averages to ACT and SAT scores of high school students.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

49-6-407. Each LEA shall adopt and use the uniform grading system developed by the state board of education for students enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12). Students' grades shall be reported for the purposes of application for postsecondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation using the uniform grading system.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 10, 2004


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18th day of May 2004


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR